

Security Information

MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

13 November 1953

Present

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Members: [REDACTED], CIA, Chairman
CIA
Stanley Wilcox, State
Charles Stanley, State (for John A. Lacey)
Richard Bauer, Army
Lt. Cdr. William C. Kruse, Navy

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Consultants: Lt. Cdr. Frank H. Balsley, Navy
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1. The fourteenth meeting convened at 1400 hours, 13 November 1953, in Room 2125 M Building. The minutes of the thirteenth meeting were approved with the following amendments:

State (Mr. Stanley): First sentence on page 2, delete "five" and insert "seven." Fourth paragraph on page 2, delete last two sentences and insert "The present staff of seven linguists has recently been made responsible for coverage of Chinese Communist propaganda material. In order to handle this coverage the Press Unit has requested an expansion at an estimated cost of \$5,000 for salaries and \$500 for procurement and supplies."

2. Review of existing facilities:

Lt. Cdr. Balsley stated that Navy has no exploitation facilities of its own and relies heavily on Hong Kong Press Monitoring Service.

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3. A draft of recommendations on exploitation of non-scientific USSR publications was handed to the committee members for their review and subsequent indication of concurrence or comment to the Chairman or [REDACTED] (ext 591 or 587).

4. The committee decided that it would examine the exploitation of foreign language scientific and technical publications immediately after completion of its examination of the exploitation of non-scientific Chinese publications.

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5. Point 2 on the agenda:

State (Mr. Stanley) assented that the analysts of DRF had been surveyed with the following results:

a. A wide difference of needs was expressed concerning what publications should be exploited. The combined result, however, showed that all available publications should be covered.

b. As to which subjects should receive priority there was also a divergence of expressed needs.

c. The analysts were fairly unanimous in their expressed preferences regarding 2c and d of the agenda. They desired first "full translation," second "compilations and collations" in periods of two weeks to six months and third "annotated bibliographies."

d. On 2 e: The needs expressed covered suggestions that from 25% to 50% of FDD's time should be reserved for searches in non-current publications. As to 2f, 80% of the analysts wanted straight reporting while 20% desired properly documented comment from FDD in its reporting.

At this point the Chairman suggested that the finding in 5c above was somewhat at cross purposes to the committee's objectives as it has been previously determined that all agencies would prefer to provide their own translation services. In accord with the Directive the committee was primarily examining "exploitation." FDD receives about 150,000 pages per year in the Chinese language. To translate this would require 150 linguists which are not available to government and there may be some doubt that the analysts would have the time to read such a volume of production.

State (Mr. Wilcox) stated that the Department did not in fact have an adequate translation service to meet its own needs but, he added, he did not feel that literal translation was the answer as this process was slow and cumbersome and would eliminate any "current" operation.

25X1A FDD [REDACTED] It is unfortunate that there seems to be a certain reticence on the part of some analysts to take advantage of the support FDD officers can provide them. To outline our facilities, our officers must be thoroughly competent linguists in their specialities and equally facile in English. Even a highly trained linguist must use his language constantly or he loses his effectiveness in it very rapidly. With FDD, however, the language facility is only a tool for the production of pertinent and accurate information. Our officers are primarily trained and qualified intelligence officers. They read regularly the intelligence reviews of the services and other available material to keep currently abreast of the needs of the intelligence services for information. Beyond this FDD officers are constantly broadening their liaison with the working levels of the IAC. Requirements, even simple translation requirements,

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cannot be satisfied by rote. The FDD intelligence officer combines a language knowledge with constant study of his field of activity, the finished reports of the intelligence community which he serves, and a vis-a-vis relationship with his consumers. It is thus that we endeavor to produce not thousands of pages, but, instead, that information which represents the most urgent need of researchers and analysts. Any other procedure is wasteful of resources and hopeless in the accomplishment of maximum intelligence coverage.

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CIA [redacted] asked [redacted] if he would outline for the committee the current China exploitation project FDD is now undertaking for CIA.

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[redacted] Let me state first that we regret that our present program of concentration does not cover all phases of information equally. It, however, represents as far as we can determine the most urgent needs on China which are shared in common by the intelligence community. In brief, we are publishing annotated bibliographies of all of the Chinese communist economic and technical monographs available in the US. We have surveyed the US repositories and by various methods of procurement have copies of all of these documents. Over 500 of these have been annotated to date and individually reported in [redacted]. Feeling that a haphazard exploitation of these would be wasteful, all of these documents were divided into five broad categories: 1) Industrial; 2) Agricultural; 3) Trade and Finance; 4) Labor and Administration; and an inevitable 5) General. FDD then requested ORR to draw up panels from among its personnel to go through each category of documents. These panels represent all the economic interests of ORR (and, we feel, the IAC). The first four categories of documents have been completed in panel and priorities of exploitation established. Exploitation as a result of these decisions is now under way and will continue until these documents are completely exploited.

For the economic periodicals FDD is now carrying on a mass indexing of all economic periodicals available to FDD, covering the period October 1949 to date. This data is transmitted directly to the OGD Intellofax system. We anticipate completing the backlog by the end of 1953. Indexing of current materials will continue after that time. Once the indexing is completed -- and we are endeavoring to discourage ad hoc requirements in the meanwhile -- FDD will gather all periodical sources subject by subject and process them with the same panel treatment as the monographs. From the results of these panel decisions we will prepare reports based on all the periodical information available on each subject. As a very rough estimate FDD hopes to complete the exploitation of these monographs and periodicals by the end of 1954. After that time all operations -- on all subjects -- may be feasible on a current basis.

6. The agenda for the next meeting will be the continuation of Part 2 of the agenda.

7. Meeting adjourned at 1530 hours, 13 November 1953. The next meeting will be held at 1400 hours, 27 November 1953, in Room 2125 M Bldg.

Approved For Release 2000/08/28 : CIA-RD [redacted]

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